DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 349 156 SE 052 326

TITLE Great Lakes Environmental Education. Special Report.
INSTITUTION International Joint Commission, Windsor (Ontario). Great Lakes Regional Office.
REPORT NO ISBN-1-895085-23-3
PUB DATE May 91
NOTE 17p.
AVAILABLE FROM International Joint Commission, P.O. Box 32869, Detroit MI 43232-2369 (free; limited copies of an accompanying videotape program are available on loan).
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Citizen Participation; Citizenship Education; Critical Thinking; Curriculum Guides; Decision Making Skills; *Environmental Education; Foreign Countries; *Government Role; Government School Relationship; Information Networks; *Marine Education; Marketing; Problem Solving; Program Development; *Program Implementation; State Action; Teacher Education; Thinking Skills; Values; Water Resources
IDENTIFIERS Environmental Action; Environmental Awareness; Environmental Ethic; Environmental Issues; Environmental Literacy; *Great Lakes; Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

ABSTRACT

The International Joint Commission report builds on a previous report to the Governments of the United States and Canada that recommended the Great Lakes (GL) States and Provinces incorporate the GL ecosystem as a priority topic in existing school curricula. This report begins by building an argument showing the need for environmental education (EE) as a way to reduce the contradictions between societies' values and actions. It suggests that governments, industries, and the public work together to create an environmental ethic that prevents pollution, avoids ecosystem exposure to persistent toxic substances, and leads to specific funded programs to remediate existing environmental contamination. To this end, the commission recommends that EE include critical thinking skills and motivation development. Despite several constraints to the inclusion of environmental and GL education into the formal education system, the commission notes several education programs that have been created in the GL region. Described is the history of specific EE program development efforts including a pilot live-by-satellite television conference held in over 33 GL communities created to stimulate information sharing. This program focused on several educators and programs throughout the basin including the Visions 2020, NIMBI, Schoolship program, and the Roughe River Interactive Monitoring Project that spawned the creation of the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN). The Commission recommends the following: (1) continued cooperative effort to develop and implement interjurisdictional agreements pertaining to EE; (2) government encouragement and financial support for a clearinghouse for EE materials, curricula, and development of EE curriculum guidelines; (3) educator developed curricula; and (4) financial support for and coordination of teacher training programs to build

both teacher confidence and EE skills. (MCO)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****